

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

It seems that IF he is to show the Stolen Honor Documentary, the same channels at the same time slot should show either Going Upriver, Fahrenheit 911, or Sutt Jhally's documentary about Iraq. This campaign is negative enough and questionable activities have already taken place (Swiftboat group). It feels close to the misdirection of Watergate. In addition, it is appalling to think that a corporation would be allowed to break the law knowingly. It is time for early intervention that prevents more misinformation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.